



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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FB10-073

## NOAA Fisheries Service Requests Comments on a Proposed Rule Intended to End Overfishing of Red Snapper in the South Atlantic Comment Period Ends September 27, 2010

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) is seeking public comment on the proposed rule that would implement Amendment 17A to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 17A), which addresses overfishing of red snapper in the South Atlantic.

The proposed rule would:

- Prohibit all harvest and possession of red snapper in federal waters of the South Atlantic and in state waters for vessels holding federal snapper-grouper permits;
- Create a closed area off southern Georgia and northern Florida where fishing for all snapper-grouper species would be prohibited, except when using spearfishing gear or black sea bass pots to fish for species other than red snapper;
- Require the use of circle hooks in the snapper-grouper fishery in federal waters north of 28° latitude; and
- Require a program to monitor red snapper during and after the rebuilding process.

### Request for Comments

Written comments on the proposed rule for Amendment 17A must be received no later than September 27, 2010, in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the **Addresses** section for information on where and how to submit comments.

### Addresses

Electronic copies of Amendment 17A may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Service Web site at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>, the e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> docket number NOAA-NMFS-2010-0035, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at <http://www.safmc.net>, or for hard copies contact:

NOAA Fisheries Service  
Southeast Regional Office  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

- More information, including Frequently Asked Questions for Amendment 17A can be found online at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

### Commenting Instructions

You may submit comments by the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> using the following docket ID in the search box: **NOAA-NMFS-2010-0035**. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.
- **Mail:** Kate Michie  
NOAA Fisheries Service  
Southeast Regional Office  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
- **Note:** The comment period for Amendment 17A is open concurrently with the comment period for its proposed rule. The comment periods for Amendment 17A and the proposed rule both end September 27, 2010.

If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please notify us at: [sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov)